

Steven Sepe

From: Beth Cullen <bethcullen@cox.net>
Sent: Tuesday, March 23, 2021 6:44 PM
To: Steven Sepe
Subject: Against House Bill 5193 - Establishment of Charter Schools -- Testimony for the record

Chairman Marvin Abney
House Committee on Finance
Rhode Island State House, Room 35
82 Smith St.
Providence, RI 02903

Tuesday, March 23, 2021

ATTN: Christopher O'Brien, Committee Clerk

AGAINST House Bill 5193 - Establishment of Charter Schools

Dear Chairman Abney and Members of the House Committee on Finance:

My name is Beth Cullen and I live in Newport. My State Representative is Rep. Carson.

I am writing to express my **strong opposition to H-5193**, regarding charter schools.

*When something is working -- like the Achievement First Mayoral Academies and the Blackstone Valley Prep schools -- you don't kill their progress...you **expand upon it!***

*With the deep academic gaps our children face due to Covid...this NOT the time to curtail educational opportunities it is the time to **INCREASING** the number of charter school seats -- needed NOW more than ever.*

Newport County needs MORE public school choice. We are the only RI county without a charter school. Too many politicians think the East Bay Met School is a charter -- it is NOT!

Despite what many wish you to think, Newport is not all mansions and yachts.

Our city has egregious student outcomes, on par with the most disadvantaged communities in our state.

Charter School choice is the key to moving out of our state's chronic **economic disparities** -- and giving thousands more children the ability to reach their full potential.

Please oppose House Bill 5193. Let our children pursue the high-quality education they deserve.

Thank you for your time,
Beth Cullen
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